

SB389 AN ACT CLARIFYING THAT A PEACE OFFICER MAY ENFORCE
THE PROVISIONS OF FEDERAL CRIMINAL IMMIGRATION LAW.

LEGISLATIVE JUDICIARY
Exhibit No. 9
Date 8-6-09
Bill No. SB 389

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, my name is Amanda Arnold and I represent the Montana Human Rights Network. I stand in front of you today in respectful opposition to SB389. I will now read the short testimony of Wilmot J. Collins, a Helena Constituent who could not be here today, but whose testimony will help frame the issues prompted by this bill.

Mr. Chairman and Members of this committee, my name is Wilmot J. Collins and I sincerely oppose this bill. My wife Magdalene and I are from Liberia, West Africa; we've only lived in Helena, Montana since arriving to the United States about 13 and 15+ years ago. We are happy to say that we became Americans in August 2002.

Mr. Chairman as you know, there are not many people of color in this state and even though we are Americans we have had our share of racial profiling and this bill would just increase the problems that we go through almost daily. We still do carry an active Liberian accent that would give officers the so-called right to harass us. This is not only about us but also about all the law abiding citizens that do not look like or speak like the majority.

Mr. Chairman and members of this committee, while I do believe that the majority of the Officers are decent people, the few that are not will continue to have a field day with us. Please, for decency sake table this bill. We do not have illegal immigration problems in this state; we do have people who have illegal intentions and let's tell them "NOT IN OUR STATE"

Wilmot J. Collins, MS.HRM

The Network echoes Mr. Collins' concerns that this Bill will have far reaching consequences that will adversely affect Montana citizens. Indeed it is hard to see how law enforcement would have any option but to use racial profiling in order to attempt to identify undocumented persons while on patrol.

The Network also agrees that this bill is unnecessary since according to the INS, Montana and seven other states together comprise less than 0.1% of the undocumented population in the US.¹ We urge you to table this bill in committee. Thank You.

¹ *Estimates of the Unauthorized Immigrant Population Residing in the United States: 1990 to 2000.* Office of Policy and Planning U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. Available online at http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/statistics/publications/Ill_Report_1211.pdf